

## HOUSE RESOLUTION 168

By VanHuss

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Gunnery Sergeant Kevin Neal, United States Marine Corps.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to honor those many valiant men and women who continue this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the United States Marine Corps; and

WHEREAS, one such intrepid individual is Gunnery Sergeant Kevin Neal of the U.S. Marine Corps, whose heroism in defense of this Nation deserves the respect and admiration of every American; and

WHEREAS, Gunnery Sergeant Kevin Neal's courageous service earned him the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, citing this valiant Marine for: "Meritorious service while serving as Platoon Sergeant, Scout-Sniper Platoon, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 24<sup>th</sup> Marines, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from 5 January to 18 August 2004. Staff Sergeant Neal performed his duties in an exemplary and highly professional manner. He contributed significantly to the successful training and deployment of the scout-sniper platoon into theater. His skillful leadership and thorough knowledge allowed his platoon to accomplish the mission at hand and maintain high standards of training. He led or supervised fifty successful guardian angel and surveillance missions. He accompanied two teams in support of combat operations in Fallujah, resulting in decoration of valor for his men. He assisted with force protection by conducting vital counter surveillance missions and improving observation posts by providing detailed range cards and guard training. Staff Sergeant Neal's initiative, perseverance, and total dedication to duty reflected credit upon him and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service"; and

WHEREAS, Gunnery Sergeant Neal's sacrifice was honored by his receipt of the Purple Heart for injuries he received in action in Iraq on August 17, 2004; and

WHEREAS, on July 13, 2012, Gunnery Sergeant Neal received the Lifesaving Award from the Paducah Police Department for his heroism in saving the life of another without regard for his own safety; and

WHEREAS, Gunnery Sergeant Kevin Neal has demonstrated the true warrior ethos while leading Marines under his command; and

WHEREAS, his dedication to God, his Marines, and his country, both in combat and in training, are neon-emblazoned in the lives that he has touched; and

WHEREAS, Gunnery Sergeant Kevin Neal has served and continues to serve his country and fellow Americans with the strength of mind, body, and soul that is deserving of the attention and applause of this legislative body; and

WHEREAS, his valor and courage is reminiscent of his forefathers' determination to embrace, improve, and protect their Tennessee homeland; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and commend Gunnery Sergeant Kevin Neal for his courageous service. "You accomplished the mission; you glorified God; you brought us home safely," "Once more into the breach, dear friend."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.